

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Aug. 3, 2020

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor  
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor  
James Johnson  
Samuel Lyons  
Christian Marshall  
Fred Mays  
Ryan Rudegear

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager  
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor  
Jim Wetzel, Fire Chief  
Kevin Anundson, Police Chief  
Deb Eckelberger, Development Director  
Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary & Community Development  
Sarah Titley, Venango Newspapers, Inc.  
The Rev. Jon Martin, Franklin Alliance Church

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 89**

Mrs. Fletcher moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 90**

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 6, 2020, as presented. Mr. Mays seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 91**

Mr. Lyons moved to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**CITIZENS' INQUIRIES – None.**

**CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS – Resolution No. 92**

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Rudegear seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for replacing the tongue and groove porch decking at 1440 Elk St. as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**FY-2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – CORONAVIRUS (CDBG-CV) PROGRAM -  
- FINAL APPROVAL - Resolution No. 93**

Ms. Boughner requested approval of the following projects for submission in the FY-2020 CDBG-CV Application:

Economic Development: Direct Financial Assistance to For Profit Businesses --	\$75,000
Food Banks --	\$15,000
Fire Stations/Equipment --	\$60,000
Health Services --	\$8,861
Administration (18%) --	<u>\$34,871</u>
TOTAL	\$193,732

Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Rudegeair seconded a motion to approve the FY-2020 Community Development Block Grant CARES Act CDBG-CV application as proposed. Motion passed unanimously.

**PARADE AND PARK REQUESTS – Resolution No. 94**

Ms. Jamieson presented the following request for use of the City parks:

- Aug. 16, 2020 (Aug. 23, 2020, rain date) • Riverfront Park • Franklin Alliance Church • Baptismal Service.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Rudegeair seconded a motion to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Manager**

- Ms. Jamieson indicated the real estate property tax and earned income tax revenues combined are down by about \$110,000 compared to 2019, and that does not include the figures for the second quarter. While the City is managing to live within its means for now, because of cuts to expenditures, the comparison raises concerns about what lies ahead and what it could mean for the 2021 budget.
- She provided an update on work at the Professional Building, including the installation of a new generator that will keep the entire building running should the power go out. The generator was funded by FEMA money that had previously been targeted for the Chub Run stormwater management project.
- **Resolution No. 95** – She said work is also progressing on the Façade Improvement project at the Professional Building, underway by Whalen Contracting. The project includes window replacements and new stucco on the back and one side of the building. Work on the other side of the building facing Prospect Avenue was included as an alternate bid in the contract – for completion this fall -- and Whalen agreed to honor

the alternate bid amount of \$96,127, she said. Ms. Jamieson indicated there are sufficient funds in the Professional Building account for the additional work and recommended the expansion of the project to include the third side. Mr. Rudegear made a motion to approve the addition to the Façade Improvement project by Whalen Contracting at a cost of \$96,127. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- **Resolution No. 96 --** She reported the Buffalo Street Bus Shelter & Pedestrian Connection project, funded by a Multimodal Grant through the Community Financing Authority of DCED, is moving along. She requested approval of two change orders, pending approval by DCED: one for the sidewalk crossing the alley to be replaced with concrete sidewalk, as required by City ordinance, rather than with asphalt, at an additional cost of \$2,463.30; and another shifting the construction of the bus shelter from the City Street Department to the contractor, at an additional cost of \$2,087.94. She indicated there are sufficient funds in the grant to cover the cost of the two change orders. Mrs. Fletcher moved to approve the change orders as presented, pending approval by DCED. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 97 –** She indicated the FY-2018 CDBG Street Improvements, including the milling and paving of the 1200, 1300 and 1400 blocks of Otter, is ready to go out to bid. She reminded Council that due to concerns about speeding in the 1300 block of Otter, there were discussions about paving in speed humps on that block. In the meantime, a rubber speed hump was installed during the summer months, which seems to have had the desired effect of slowing traffic down. Looking back at the surveys of residents on the block conducted when the issue was first raised, only 3 of 8 were in favor of speed humps. She advised that the project be completed as straight paving, without the speed humps, and that the rubber speed hump be reinstalled as necessary. Mrs. Fletcher so moved and Mr. Lyons seconded the motion. Mayor Baker said the City told the residents the speed humps would be used, so if they are not paved in, the rubber speed humps should be reinstalled. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 98 --** Ms. Jamieson indicated the paving project will be bid out and, as Council's next regular meeting will not be held until Sept. 14, she recommended that council schedule a special meeting during the third week in August to award the bid so the work can hopefully be completed during the current paving season. Mr. Rudegear moved to approve a special meeting for 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24, for the purpose of awarding the contract for paving the 1200, 1300 and 1400 blocks of Otter using CDBG funds, to be conducted via conference call. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Reported the City was able to complete an application for a Blight Remediation grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for \$129,000 to demolish 10 deteriorated properties.
- She reminded Council members of three upcoming public assemblies in Franklin parks previously approved by Council, and asked if they wanted to revisit any of the events, which anticipate crowds of 150 to 210 people. Current state guidelines relating to the pandemic limit public gatherings to 250 people. Council members indicated a disinclination to take further action on the matter unless the state guidelines change.

- Said she would need a brief executive session to discuss negotiations.

#### **Solicitor**

- Reported the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board approved the City's petition for an extension of permission to enforce its own noise ordinance in the Central Business District -- in lieu of Section 493(34) of the Liquor Code. The decision follows a hearing on the matter held on June 24, 2020, at the Barrow-Civic Theatre. The exemption is good until July 31, 2023.

#### **Mayor • Appointments** -- None.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

##### **Mr. Rudegeair**

- Indicated he received a report of political signs being stolen from people's yards

##### **Mr. Johnson**

- Indicated he serves on the board of the Venango Museum of Art, Science & Industry and advised his fellow board members and the public of a museum fund-raiser now underway

##### **Mr. Marshall**

- Noted that a speed limit sign by the 15<sup>th</sup> Street playground has not yet been replaced
- Observed that a handicapped parking spot on upper Elk Street near the 15<sup>th</sup> Street playground remains, although the people for whom it was so designated moved away
- Indicated that a tree near the playground slated for removal is dropping debris
- Echoed comments made by Mr. Lyons at a previous meeting regarding a house surrounded by trash near the bottom of 15<sup>th</sup> Street Hill and called for additional code enforcement
- Argued for the purchase of computers for police vehicles

##### **Mrs. Fletcher**

- Advised that under the permission granted by Council to Trails to Ales in July, tables are permitted in the brick area of the sidewalk, not in the street. She also advised that the people using those tables should not be milling around but should be seated
- She also discussed possible solutions for a resident having trouble parking at an Elk Street address

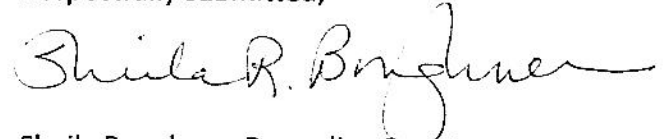
#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 99**

Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to enter into executive session at 7:42 p.m. to discuss negotiations. The executive session ended at 7:50 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sheila R. Boughner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary